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Letter dated 21 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 21 December 2001, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 21 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statements made by representatives of the Greek Cypriot administration at the General Assembly plenary session on 8, 13, 14 and 16 November 2001. These statements contain false allegations against my country. I would therefore like to respond to these allegations and to set the record straight.

The Greek Cypriot representatives have, once again, tried to portray the situation in Cyprus as a problem of "invasion" and "occupation" by Turkey. A quick glance at the history of Cyprus will reveal that the Cyprus question did not come about as a result of the Turkish intervention in 1974, as alleged by the Greek Cypriot side, but was created in 1963 when the Greek Cypriot wing of the bi-national Republic of Cyprus usurped, by force of arms, the seat of government and ejected the Turkish Cypriots from all state organs. The aim of the Greek Cypriots was to eliminate the Turkish Cypriot people whom they perceived as an obstacle blocking the way towards ENOSIS (union of Cyprus with Greece). The armed onslaught in December 1963 was accompanied by a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Turkish Cypriots. In the process, the Greek Cypriots killed or wounded hundreds of Turkish Cypriots, destroyed 103 Turkish Cypriot villages across the island and rendered a quarter of the Turkish Cypriot population refugees. The violence against the Turkish Cypriots continued for eleven years until 1974.

As it is well known, the Turkish intervention in 1974 was carried out, in the wake of a coup d'état staged by Greece and its collaborators in Cyprus, in order to prevent the annexation of Cyprus by Greece and to protect the Turkish Cypriots from imminent massacres. Turkey's intervention in Cyprus was not only in full conformity with its rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, but was very timely and essential in view of the gravity of the situation in Cyprus at the time.

Against the background of oppression and persecution, the claim by the Greek Cypriot representative that the two communities on the island have lived in "peace and harmony" in the past is nothing more than a denial of history and an inability to assume responsibility for the wrongdoings that created the Cyprus problem in the first place.

The Greek Cypriot representative has also referred to the issue of the unilateral application of the Greek Cypriot administration for accession to the European Union. I would like to emphasize that the ongoing unilateral bid for European Union membership by the Greek Cypriot administration contravenes the provisions of the Treaty of Guarantee and of Alliance, which regulate the "state of affairs" created by the 1960 Cyprus Agreements. The "state of affairs" created by the 1960 Agreements is one of equal co-founder partnership status of the two peoples. In addition to the internal balance between the two peoples in Cyprus, the treaties have established an external balance between the respective motherlands, Turkey and Greece, and, under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, Turkey, Greece and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have become guarantors of the 1960 "state of affairs" in Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot side has never concealed that it seeks to become a member of the European Union for political reasons, rather than economic or otherwise, in order to dilute these treaties and render Turkey's security guarantee for the Turkish Cypriots ineffective. The Turkish Cypriot side has opposed the unilateral application by the Greek Cypriot side from the very beginning and has held the strong view that the European Union membership can only be taken up after a political settlement between the two parties. Also, the balance established between Turkey and Greece with regard to Cyprus by the 1960 treaties has to be maintained in every respect.

In this connection, I would like to refer to the "Further Opinion" dated 12 September 2001 prepared by Professor M. H. Mendelson, Q.C., a prominent international jurist, at the request of both the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the Government of Turkey, which has been circulated as a United Nations document (A/56/451-S/2001/953, enclosure). This legal opinion demonstrates that the unilateral accession of the Greek Cypriot administration, purporting to represent the "Republic of Cyprus", to the European Union would be in breach of the Treaty of Guarantee unless all parties to the Treaty (namely Turkey, Greece, and the United Kingdom) consented.

I would like to reiterate that the unilateral accession process initiated by the Greek Cypriot side and the "green light" given to the Greek Cypriots by the European Union in this regard have already seriously undermined the search for a negotiated settlement in Cyprus. The unilateral accession of the Greek Cypriot side to the European Union would destroy all prospects for a settlement and would bring about the permanent division of the island. Such an eventuality would pose a direct threat to peace and stability on the island and the region at large. It is therefore incumbent upon all concerned to stand firmly against such an eventuality. At this juncture, it is crucial that the European Union should send the right messages to the Greek Cypriot side.

In conclusion, I would like to impress upon all concerned the necessity to adopt a fresh approach to the Cyprus issue in order to facilitate the process of reconciliation between the two states in Cyprus. This will also induce the Greek Cypriot side to stop pretending that they represent the island as a whole and to refrain from exploiting international forums against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Turkey. Only then will the necessary first steps have been taken in conformity with the spirit of the current political climate.

I should be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus